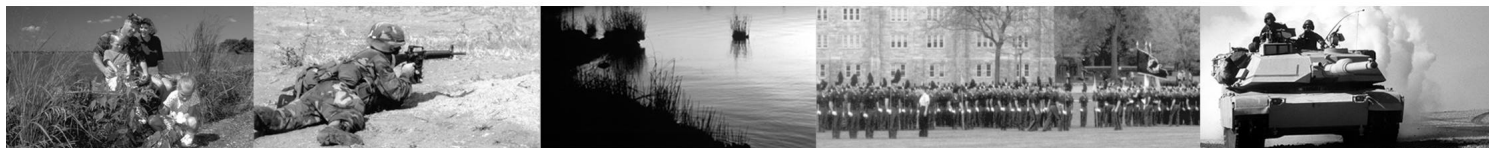


MONITOR



GREAT LAKES BINATIONAL TOXICS STRATEGY CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

By **Hugh McAlear**, Region 5 Army REC

Environmental officials from the United States and Canada met in Ontario, Canada, in May 2002 to reaffirm their joint commitment to improve environmental conditions in the Great Lakes ecosystem, review their progress, and plan how to restore and improve water quality in the future.

Observers say the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS) is the most comprehensive effort yet by the U.S. and Canada to mutually commit to eliminating persistent, toxic substances from the Great Lakes environment. Environment Canada (EC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and stakeholders from industry, academia, state and provincial and

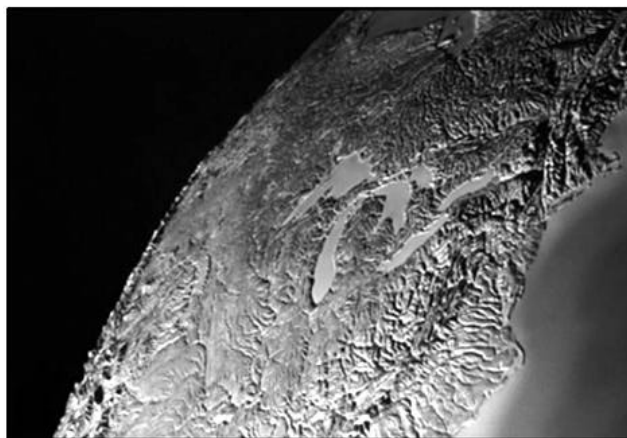
local governments, First Nations, tribes, and environmental and community groups have worked together to achieve the strategy's challenge goals.

Recognizing the urgent need to improve environmental conditions in the Great Lakes, Canada and the U.S. signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972, committing the two countries to restore and enhance water quality in the Great Lakes ecosystem. That agreement was later amended to include a commitment for the "virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances" and a list of toxic chemicals for priority action. The GLBTS grew out of that agreement, and the organization established a set of challenge goals in 1997.

In the five years since, the GLBTS has engaged in a wide range of activities to eliminate sources of toxins. These include mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans, hexachlorobenzene, and benzo(a)pyrene.

At the May meeting, attendees reviewed how well the GLBTS has met its original reduction goals; most have been met or are nearly met. Mercury has been reduced by 50 percent in the U.S. Canada has destroyed approximately 80 percent of its high-level PCB wastes.

Challenges still exist, however. Air



transport and deposition of persistent, toxic and bio-accumulative substances and cleaning up contaminated sediments top the list of priorities. The GLBTS will continue to monitor air, water, sediments, fish and other biota in the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem and will consider impacts from toxins and other potential emerging chemicals of concern.

For further information, contact Hugh McAlear, Army REC for Region 5, at (630) 910-3213, ext 224, or at hugh.mcalear@aec.apgea.army.mil.



Binational Toxics Strategy



FROM THE CHIEF



Jim Hartman
Chief, NREO

Many of our states are now experiencing significant budget deficits, because of the depressed economy, with average loss of 20 percent of income tax revenues across the states, and increasing security requirements. State environmental commissioners are now being challenged more than ever to accomplish better environmental protection at less cost.

Environmental commissioners addressed the increasing role that states are playing in environmental protection and the innovative ways they are performing this role at a July 19, 2002 meeting, "State Environmental Achievement - A Report from Outside the

STATES CONTINUE TO BE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE LEADERS WITH AUSTERE BUDGETS

Beltway." The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) hosted the meeting in Washington, D.C. The commissioners indicated that states are "where the rubber meets the road," and the "long arm of environmental enforcement, but a buffer from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency." In an ECOS report to Congress, the states indicated that they conduct 97 percent of all environmental inspections and issue 90 percent of all enforcement actions. States have also gathered 94 percent of all environmental monitoring data, and EPA has delegated 75 percent of its programs to the states. There was much discussion of environmental enforcement at the July 19 event. The states indicated that 97.5 percent of all those regulated are in compliance, but enforcement must continue to be used as a tool to protect the environment. In contrast to EPA, states are issuing most enforcement actions; and they are also issuing twice as many significant non-compliance notices of violations as EPA. ECOS has asked EPA to make additional federal funding

available to the state environmental enforcement programs.

Differences in state enforcement programs generally occur in one of the following areas: the conduct of criminal investigations; the appeals process; issuance of emergency orders and cease and desist orders; the disposition of collected penalty money (a portion generally goes to the state general fund and a portion generally to the county where the violation occurred); and the availability of supplemental environmental projects. The bottom line from the states on enforcement is that they are fair, but aggressive when they need to be. Finally, states have also become a hotbed for environmental innovation. ECOS compiles a biennial compendium of state environmental innovations. Last year's volume, released in June 2001, topped 225 pages and contained almost as many examples of innovations.

For more on the states' leadership role in environmental compliance, visit www.ecos.org.

NORTHERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

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CHIEF, NREO JAMES HARTMAN
EDITOR ADRIANE MILLER

OUR MISSION: The NREO was established in 1995 to support the Army and DoD mission through coordination, communication and facilitation of regional environmental activities. The Army REOs are part of a DoD network in which the Army, Navy and Air Force each has lead responsibility for mission implementation for several of the ten federal regions. The NREO has DoD lead responsibility for Region 5, and Army lead responsibility for Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5.

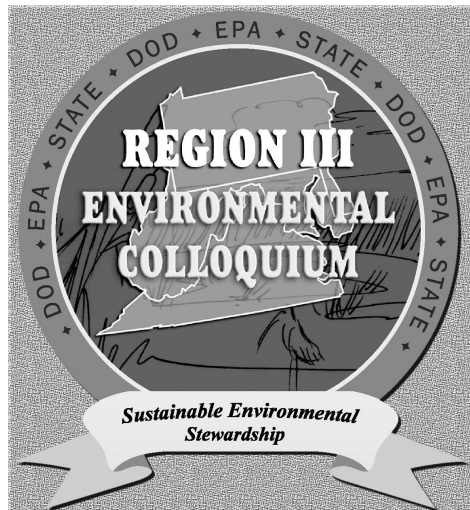


PEOPLE

Andy Stackpole replaced Robert Jones as the Navy Regional Environmental Coordinator for Regions 1 and 2 in April. Mr. Stackpole also assumed the additional environmental duties previously held by Mr. Jones, including supporting Rear Admiral Michael Tracy, DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator for Region 1. Mr. Stackpole may be reached at (860) 694-3976 or stackpoleea@subasenlon.navy.mil.

REOS REACHING OUT

REGION 3 EPA/DoD/STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COLLOQUIUM, BALTIMORE, MAY 2002



About 300 representatives of EPA, DoD, civilian and federal agencies, and state regulators met to discuss environmental challenges faced by federal agencies, and the necessity of meeting the military mission while being responsible stewards of the environment. Speakers discussed

"Unless your environmental program is integrated with your operations, it cannot be successful in the long run. We can't define our success as compliance. Success must be defined in terms of reducing environmental risks and costs inherent in our operations."

– John P. Woodley, Jr.

terrorism, range management, sustainability, and performance-based environmental incentive programs, among other topics.

"One indisputable fact about the future of environmental management stands out," said John P. Woodley, Jr., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, during a Colloquium luncheon address. "Unless your environmental program is integrated with your operations, it cannot be successful in the long run. We can't define our success as compliance. Success must be defined in terms of reducing environmental risks and costs inherent in our operations."

Plans are already being made for the next



John P. Woodley, Jr., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, was luncheon speaker at the May 2002 EPA/State/DoD Region 3 Environmental Colloquium in Baltimore.

The Northern Regional Environmental Office co-hosts the colloquium with EPA every 18 months

Colloquium, September 9 – 11 2003. Watch this space and <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/reo/nreo00.html> for details.

CAMP EDWARDS, MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY RESERVATION, MAY 2002

Bob Muhly, Regions 1 and 2 Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC), and Bob Boonstoppel, NREO Counsel, joined others from the NREO to visit Greg Miller, Massachusetts National Guard Environmental & Readiness Center Operations Manager, and David Jacobson, Camp Edwards Environmental Manager. Among the topics of their discussion: urban sprawl and development at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) fence line, and the value of community relations.

MMR began hearing complaints about noise from residents building homes near firing ranges in the 1980s. At the same time, local political support for military operations began to erode. Regional news media and the EPA similarly began to distance themselves from MMR. But community outreach meetings sponsored by MMR are helping, Mr. Miller says. His advice for installations facing mushrooming housing

(Continued on page 4)



From left, David Jacobson, Camp Edwards, Mass., environmental manager, and Robert Muhly, regional environmental coordinator from the Army Northern Regional Environmental Office, meet at the Camp Edwards Environmental & Readiness Center. The Northern Regional Environmental Office works throughout EPA Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5 to build strong partnerships among installations and their communities.

CAMP EDWARDS, MASSACHUSETTS

(Continued from page 3)

developments at the fence line: start communicating with the public now, before the first neighbor utters a complaint.

During a "windshield tour" of MMR impact areas and training ranges, Mr. Jacobson said most residents don't realize that a military range can be beautiful. "People expect it to look like a moonscape. We take them out and they see all the green and they're amazed."



DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM/ DoD-STATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (DERP/DSMOA) WORKSHOP, CHICAGO, JULY 2002

Region 3 REC Fred Boecher, NREO Counsel Bob Boonstoppel and other attendees discussed DSMOA funding and training, unexploded ordnance (UXO) prioritization and funding, roles and responsibilities, and "the way forward" with this group, whose role is to expedite environmental restoration at DoD installations through partnerships with states.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES, CHICAGO, JULY 2002

Michael Cain of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (ESOH), and NREO Chief Jim Hartman were invited to brief this group of legislators and lobbyists on the DoD REC program. They discussed range sustainment, partnerships, and environmental issues of importance to the Army with elected representatives of all 50 states.

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY, NEW YORK, JULY 2002

DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators in Region 2 met with John P. Woodley, Jr., EPA regional administrators, and installation commanders. Their purpose: to reaffirm the military's goal to be an effective environmental steward, and to work with EPA to achieve their mutual goals for environmental protection. Mr. Woodley met with Region 5 representatives in September 2002.



ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES CONFERENCE SAN DIEGO, JULY 2002

NREO Counsel Bob Boonstoppel presented a briefing at the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) Environmental Crimes Conference. The conference trains DCIS agents in safety issues, which may be encountered at hazardous waste sites during criminal investigations. Mr. Boonstoppel briefed the group on "DoD Regional Environmental Program – An Effective Tool in the Investigative Toolbox."



John Lake, program manager of the environmental crimes program with DoD Investigative Operations, visited the NREO in May to discuss how the REOs and Environmental Crimes program can support each other to provide greater environmental security. "I believe that whatever methods of surveillance or deterrence

are used, your office and others at the base level are on the front lines of defense," Mr. Lake told NREO Chief Jim Hartman during that visit. "We must get timely feedback from the bases and compliance officers when significant problems arise. We must ... work together to accomplish this mission."

EMS FAQ

Answers to some of your questions about Environmental Management Systems from International Organization for Standardization's Technical Committee 207 on Environmental Management

DoD has issued a policy memorandum directing DoD components to adopt an environmental management system and integrate it in all core business areas. One of the first tasks in that process is to determine environmental aspects and impacts.

What is an aspect?

The ISO 14000 Information Center defines an **Environmental Aspect** as an element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment. A significant environmental aspect can have a significant environmental impact.

The Army does not have a library of "aspects." "It is less important to

Environmental Aspect

Element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

identify every possible aspect than to look at the major interactions at

your installation," said LTC Janek Kozlowski during an EPA EMS Workshop in Newport, RI in June. "Aspects can also change over time so you can expect to use the annual review to update and upgrade the list of aspects."

What is an impact?

An **Environmental Impact** is defined as any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's

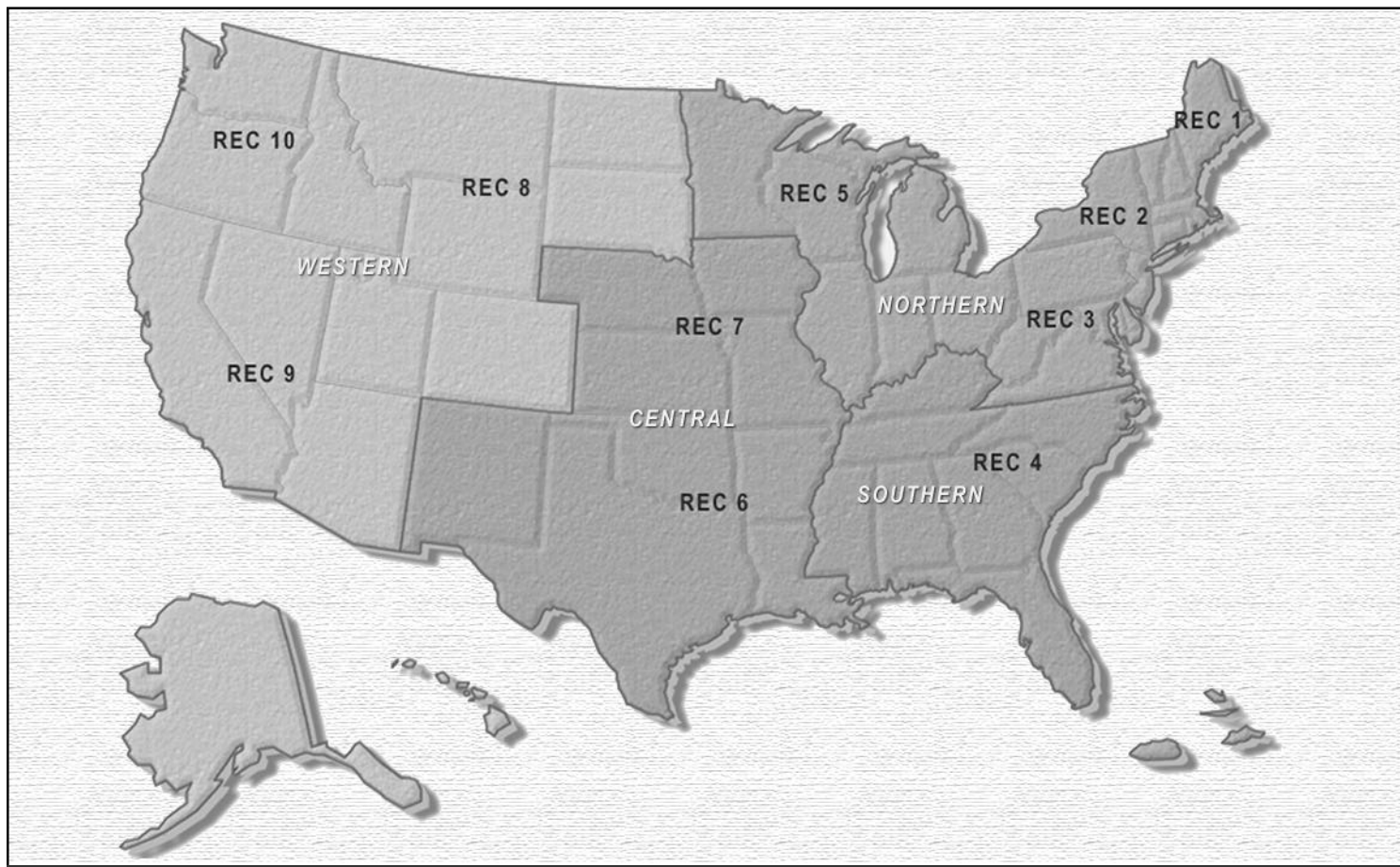
Environmental Impact

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services.

activities, products or services.

LTC Kozlowski said the Army is drafting a detailed Letter of Instruction to explain, step-by-step, how installations can meet the need for EMS preparation. "If an installation wants to do something differently, that will be fine as long as its method produces the same result: a mission-focused ISO 14001 EMS," LTC Kozlowski said. The draft instruction is in the "debugging" process and will be released in autumn.

To find out more about the nuts and bolts of EMS preparation and implementation, contact the Regional Environmental Coordinator in your region.



ON VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATIVE HORIZON

By Bob Boonstoppel, NREO Regional Counsel

Sewage sludge figured prominently in issues before the 2002 Virginia General Assembly, and as the Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment begins preparing its work plan for the next state legislative session, Commission Chairman Sen. William T. Bolling says sludge and solid waste again will be a priority issue in 2003. The importance of this topic in Virginia could portend a similar focus in other states next year as well.

The Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment held a public meeting in late April to review legislation from the 2002 assembly session and to hear what environmental issues the public would most like the legislature to address in 2003. About 80 participants attended the meeting, held in the Virginia General Assembly Building in Richmond.

The Virginia General Assembly created the commission in 1996 to " ... examine the history of environmental and natural resource programs and funding for such programs in the Commonwealth and to develop a long-term vision and plan for the future management of Virginia's natural resources." The commission is composed of four senators and six delegates of the General Assembly, and seven citizens appointed by the assembly leadership. Tayloe Murphy, Virginia secretary of natural resources, is an ex officio member.

According to Sen. Bolling, among the most significant bills passed by the state in 2002 was one transferring jurisdiction over land application of sewage sludge from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Quality. A related Senate bill, SB 618, would have permitted local jurisdictions to prohibit land application of sewage sludge. Although SB 618 did not pass, Sen. Bolling said that bill will most likely

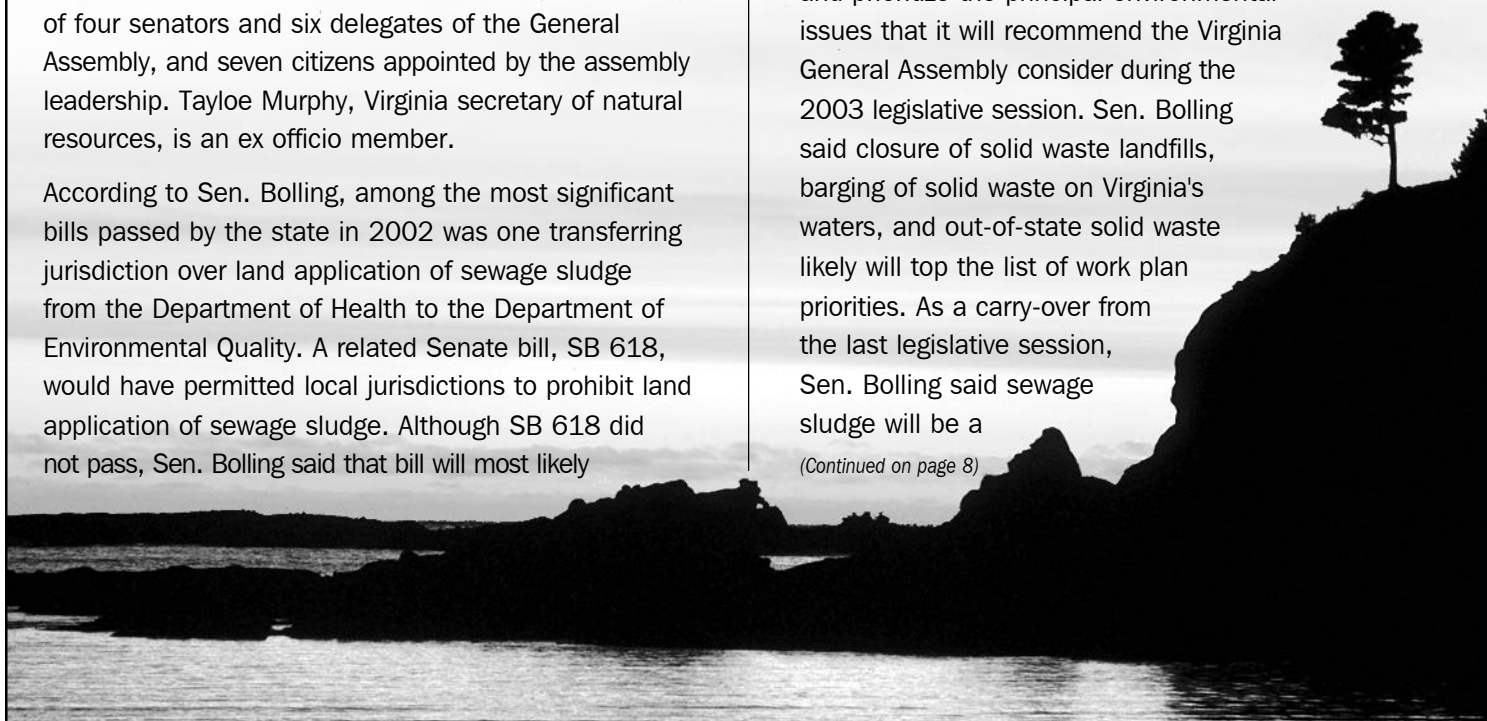
"The commission is developing a workplan to identify and prioritize the principal environmental issues that it will recommend the Virginia General Assembly consider during the 2003 legislative session"

come up again in 2003, and could be the most important environmental issue the General Assembly addresses next year.

Other environmental legislation passed in 2002 includes HB 346, permitting clustering of family housing to preserve open space; HB 463, a brownfields restoration and land renewal act; SB 327, allowing the state Water Control Board to require demonstrations of financial responsibility for the completion of mitigation requirements relating to dredging projects; and SB 249, permitting the amendment of a lease with the Secretary of the Army to add land to the Oconeechee State Park in Mecklenburg County.

Using input it received at the April meeting, the commission is developing a work plan to identify and prioritize the principal environmental issues that it will recommend the Virginia General Assembly consider during the 2003 legislative session. Sen. Bolling said closure of solid waste landfills, barging of solid waste on Virginia's waters, and out-of-state solid waste likely will top the list of work plan priorities. As a carry-over from the last legislative session, Sen. Bolling said sewage sludge will be a

(Continued on page 8)



REGIONAL INTEL

■ Where's the silver bullet? "We've been looking for it for 15 years now, but there's no silver bullet," for detection of buried UXO, says Jim Pastorick of Geophex UXO, Ltd., speaking at a May UXO Basic Training course in Cambridge, Mass. "And we're probably not going to see a silver bullet come along." Detection methods haven't changed much in generations, he said. Successful detection remains, at least for now, a site-specific science.

■ EPA offering more compliance assistance ... and increasing enforcement actions? EPA is asking state regulators to provide more compliance assistance in their enforcement programs. That message was repeated widely at EPA conferences and meetings throughout the spring and summer. At an EPA Compliance Assistance Advisory Committee meeting, held in June in Virginia, the director of EPA's compliance assistance and sector programs division, James Edward, said state regulators provide compliance assistance to federal facilities when they offer information and resources about the requirements for environmental laws – and how they might comply with less effort and cost.

However, a February 2002 communication said that most EPA regions do not yet include compliance assistance as part of their strategic plans for enforcement. And other EPA sources say enforcement actions against federal facilities are likely to increase in the near future. At an environmental law discussion hosted by the District of Columbia Bar Association in May, an attorney with EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance said Congress



NEWS DIGEST

INDIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD WINS NATIONAL GLOBE AWARD

The Chief of Environmental Programs, National Guard Bureau, has selected the Military Department of Indiana as the winner of the 2002 Globe Award. This environmental stewardship award is given to the state or territory judged to have the best overall environmental program. Entrants from 54 states and territories competing for the award were rated on their environmental compliance record, reporting accuracy, enforcement actions, hazardous waste reduction and other measures. "This award demonstrates the commitment by the National Guard in protecting our environment," said LTC Rick Jones, Supervisory Environmental Specialist for the Indiana Army National Guard. "It is also an indicator of military readiness and our dedication to protecting the health and welfare of individual soldiers by taking care of the environment in which they train on a day-by-day basis. United States military installations throughout the world are taking a leading role in environmental stewardship. It's just second nature to us." MG George A. Buskirk, Jr., adjutant general, presented the award in April.

ENERGY CONSERVATION IS THE GOAL

The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program is sponsoring a series of nationwide workshops titled "Distributed Energy Resources for Federal Facilities" to help federal facilities improve energy conservation and meet energy reduction goals. DOE's intent is to bring federal facility managers, energy project developers, equipment manufacturers, and system designers together in one place where they can generate creative new ideas on energy conservation.

Region 5 Regional Environmental Coordinator Hugh McAlear, who attended a Distributed Energy Workshop in June in Chicago, said he learned that cooperative communication on energy-related issues helps everyone. "Involve all the stakeholders early in the process, particularly the local utility, for interconnectivity of technologies to the grid," Hugh said. "Where this did not happen – with adverse results – was when a project was not coordinated with the local electrical company and the installed equipment was not allowed to be connected to the utility grid."

is now stipulating that federal facilities will be subject to environmental laws as those facilities' authorizations come up for legislative renewal.

■ Overheard at the Region 3 EPA/State/DoD Environmental Colloquium in Baltimore, after a presentation on performance-based incentive programs: "The objective is to motivate and reward environmental performance, not penalize installations for trying to improve."

■ Growth at A.P. Hill: Real estate developers in Caroline County, Virginia, adjacent to Fort A.P. Hill, have requested a zoning change to allow for home building on the installation boundary at Route 17. While not

an impact area, the location is subject to small arms fire, flares, and smoke from military training. Fort A.P. Hill's command group acknowledges that development along the Route 17 corridor is probably inevitable, but they are concerned about the precedent that would be set if the zoning change goes through. A series of public meetings has begun to gauge local sentiment.

■ More than P2: The Illinois/DoD Pollution Prevention Partnership has voted to officially change its name to "Illinois/DoD Environmental Partnership" to reflect its expanded focus and interest in all things environmental. Revisions to the partnership's charter are also underway.

VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATIVE HORIZON

(Continued from page 6)

major item, and was the sole topic on the agenda of the commission meeting in May.

Fifteen speakers addressed the commission during the April meeting's public comment period. Speakers included representatives from Virginia local and county government and government associations, local public interest groups, the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and private citizens.

The commission will continue to meet until the 2003 Virginia legislative session begins in January.



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